

## **Sample Municipal Presentation from the Northumberland, Ontario chapter of the Council of Canadians**

Good Evening (Mayor, councillors, etc).

Thank you for giving me/us this opportunity to present information about an issue I/we believe is very important.

I/We am/are here to talk about CETA, the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement, which is being negotiated between Canada's federal *and* provincial governments and the European Union.

I/We believe it is in the city/county/town's interests to seek more information and input from the provincial government into the status of the negotiations, as well as to request an exclusion of municipal governments from the agreement as per the resolution which has been distributed to you.

It is all the more crucial that municipalities across Canada do this since the CETA negotiations are moving quickly, and initial offers on procurement were exchanged during the 8<sup>th</sup> round of CETA talks in Brussels this July.

I/We am/are concerned with the lack of information that has been provided to Canadians on this trade agreement. Our assessment of CETA is based on leaked copies of the draft negotiating texts, and non-governmental studies of how the deal will affect numerous Canadian sectors, including local governments.

CETA is a complex and very large free trade agreement.

It covers ALL aspects of Trade and Economic Development.

It will have significant implications for Municipalities and municipal governance.

*For the first time*, Provinces are at the table and have signaled in advance their willingness to be bound by the final deal.

Three issues in CETA break new ground:

- a) *Sub-national procurement commitments – public contracts for goods, services and construction by local governments*
- b) *Municipal Services – like wastewater treatment, energy and transit may be covered in the services and investment chapter*
- c) *Local domestic regulation*

The European Union has made specific requests for full access to all levels of public procurement in municipalities across Canada, including core municipal services, such as public transit, water services and wastewater treatment.

The leaked CETA documents explicitly propose that local economic development considerations be excluded as factors in procurement decisions.

Additionally, Under CETA, EU corporations would have preferential bidding rights on municipal procurement contracts of goods and services. For example, CETA's procurement chapter and dispute settlement process will give these firms tools to frustrate and potentially seek damages for or overturn local procurement decisions. Far from making public contracts more transparent and fairer, CETA could simply prolong the contracting process and lead to unnecessary headaches for local governments.

Given the conditions and responsibilities that will affect municipal governance, it is surprising/interesting that mayors and municipal councillors are not part of the negotiations.

*The federal and provincial governments have not presented an assessment of the impact CETA will have on local governance. They have not offered any meaningful assessment of what municipalities might gain from abandoning their procurement rights.*

While I/we am/are critical of the procurement chapter in CETA, I/we am/are by no means opposed to open, fair and transparent procurement processes.

*We believe it is important that this CETA agreement be addressed openly and that we have a discussion about it and its implications. Municipalities need to hear what the provinces and federal government hope to achieve through the CETA negotiations and what the trade-offs are.*

We are here to encourage you to learn more about CETA and to ask questions of the [PROVINCIAL ASSOCIATION OF MUNICIPALITIES]. Municipalities across Canada have expressed their opposition to CETA. Many are seeking more information from the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, which passed a resolution in Sept 2010 calling on the federal government to respect municipal autonomy in trade negotiations with the European Union.

*The Union of British Columbia Municipalities, Drayton Valley AB, Lashburn KS, and Lunenburg NS, as well as the towns of New Tecumseth and Alnwick-Haldimand ON have passed similar resolutions.*

We are asking that you give this your consideration and pass the resolution before you. We feel it is not only right that municipalities have a bigger say in the CETA negotiations. It should be mandatory today when municipal governments are increasingly important to the Canadian economy, the delivery of services, and the quality of life of our communities.

Again, we are happy to offer you more information and assistance as you give consideration to this resolution.

Thank You